

REMARKS

The foregoing Amendment and Remarks which follow are responsive to the Office Action mailed January 27, 2004 in relation to the above-identified patent application. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 41-56 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over Claims 1-13 of Applicant's U.S. Patent No. 6,641,454. Additionally, the Examiner rejected Claims 41, 48 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the Kikinis reference. Importantly, the Examiner indicated that Claims 42-47 and 50-56 were not rejected over the prior art.

By this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled Claims 42 and 50, and has amended Claims 41, 43, 49 and 51. More particularly, independent Claim 41 has been amended to include the limitations originally set forth in cancelled Claim 42, with independent Claim 49 being amended to include the limitations originally recited in cancelled Claim 50. Claims 43 and 51 have been amended only to change their dependency to Claims 41 and 49, respectively.

In addition to the foregoing, submitted herewith for the Examiner's consideration is a duly executed Terminal Disclaimer wherein Applicant has agreed to disclaim that portion of the term of any patent issuing in relation to the present application which extends beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent No. 6,641,454. Applicant respectfully submits that the submission of this Terminal Disclaimer effectively overcomes the double patenting rejection set forth in the subject Office Action.

On the basis of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the stated rejections have been overcome, and that Claims 41, 43-49, and 51-56 are now in condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

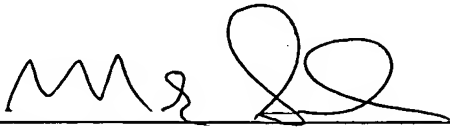
Attorney Docket No.: NORLA-001C5
Application No.: 10/658,043

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4/13/01

By:



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